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Applicants cancel claims 3-4, 6-7, 11, and 16-17. Claims 1-2, 5, 8-10, 12-15, and 18-20 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claims 1 and 9 to incorporate the features of canceled claims 7 and 17, respectively. Applicants amend claims 19 and 20 to incorporate corresponding features, and claims 8 and 18 for proper dependencies and minor clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 12, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,452,902 to Buyukkoc et al.; and claims 3-4, 6-8, 10-11, and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buyukkoc et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,940,396 to Rochberger. Applicants cancel claims 3-4, 6-7, 11, and 16-17, and incorporate the features recited therein in claims 1 and 9, respectively. Applicants amend claims 19 and 20 to incorporate corresponding features. The Examiner's claim rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner cited col. 9, lines 5-12 of Buyukkoc et al. as alleged disclosure of the features recited in claims 7, 14, and 17. Such portions of Buyukkoc et al. merely describe, however, marking paths that are affected by a failed link or node as "black," balancing loads across remaining routes, and re-routing calls to alternate paths. The description regarding re-routing calls that "are normally lost at the time of a network failure" merely describes the re-routing feature possibly preventing calls from being lost, and makes no mention of deciding whether the re-routing would result in any traffic loss. Therefore, the cited portions of Buyukkoc et al. do not disclose or suggest the claimed feature of "deciding whether a traffic loss occurs by redistributing the traffic flow..."

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Thus, even assuming, arguendo, that it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made to combine Buyukkoc et al. and Rochberger, the combination would still have failed to disclose or suggest,

“[a] traffic engineering method of a network divided into a plurality of areas, each area including a plurality of nodes, said method comprising the steps of:

- carrying out a load-balancing process at a boundary node in said each area in a closed manner;
- calculating a normalized value used for the load-balancing process, based on address information of a packet supplied to an ingress node of the network from an outside of the network;
- adding said normalized value to switching information of said packet;
- forwarding said packet from said ingress node to the plurality of nodes;
- receiving said packet from said ingress node at an area boundary node located on a boundary of the plurality of areas;
- extracting said normalized value, used for carrying out the load-balancing process in an area including said area boundary node, from the switching information of said packet;
- redistributing a traffic flow from a failed route to a route other than the failed route if receiving a failure notification at said ingress node or said area boundary node; and
- deciding whether a traffic loss occurs by redistributing the traffic flow from said failed route to the route other than said failed route.” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, together with claims 2, 5, and 8 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Buyukkoc et al. and Rochberger, separately and in combination, for at least the above-stated reasons. Claims 9, 19, and 20 include features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, together with claims 10, 12-15, and 18 dependent from claim 9, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically

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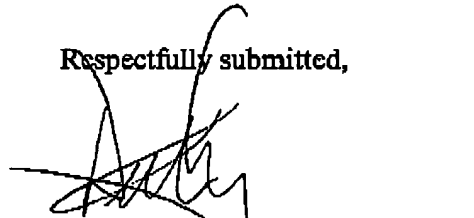
indicate those portions of the respective reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's implicit finding that the additional references made of record, but not applied, do not render the claims of the present application unpatentable, whether these references are considered alone or in combination with others.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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